

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to incorporate the proper headings under rule 37 CFR 1.97, to correct the title and to correct any typographical errors.

Regarding the rejection to the claims for being anticipated by KENNEDY (US 5,752,801), applicant has amended claim 1 to obviate this rejection. Claim 4 has been cancelled.

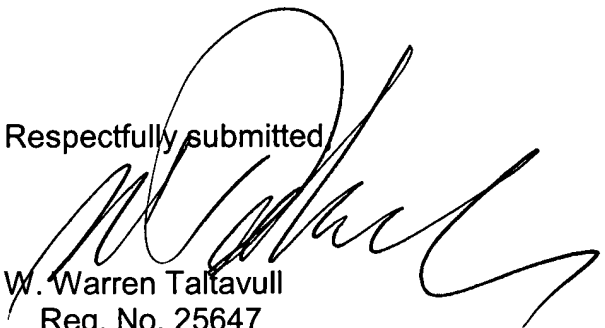
The present invention involves transfer passages between cooling channels in an aerofoil. The transfer passages are intended to maintain adequate cooling of the aerofoil if one or more of the cooling channels are blocked by dirt or debris. Specifically, the cross-section of the transfer passages are selected for conformity with their coolant channel outlet cross-section for coolant flow balance through the aerofoil as stated in currently amended claim 1.

KENNEDY's transfer passages are provided to facilitate manufacturing of the airfoil 2 (column 4 lines 23-26) and furthermore, the diameter of the transfer passages can be sized to a minimum necessary to provide sufficient core strength during casting in order to minimize such flow communications (column 4 lines 50-55).

Therefore, from the above points, it can be seen that the transfer passages of the present invention must be large enough to ensure continuous coolant airflow in the event of a blockage to one or more of the coolant channels whereas KENNEDY desires its transfer passages to be of minimal cross-section as long as the passages have sufficient core strength during casting.

Entry of this amendment is solicited, is believed appropriate, and is believed to distinguish the invention from the cited references. For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance are believed in order and are solicited.

Respectfully submitted



W. Warren Taltavull
Reg. No. 25647

Manelli, Denison & Selter PLLC
2000 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202 262 1047